

# Questions and Answers

about your medical coverage changing from DSHS Medical Assistance to Basic Health

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## **Why is my medical care changing?**

The 2002 Legislature ended some state-funded Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Medical Assistance programs. These are the programs for undocumented children and some immigrants who have documents who have been in the US less than 5 years. There are a few other non-citizen children and families who are affected, too.

If you are in one of these programs, we encourage you to apply for medical coverage through the Basic Health program. Also, there may be another DSHS medical program that you are eligible for. *We will be sending you more information about when non-citizens are eligible for DSHS medical programs.*

## **When does this happen?**

October 1, 2002. You should apply for Basic Health now to be certain your Basic Health coverage begins on October 1. Use your medical ID card to get needed care between now and September 30.

## **May I still use my DSHS medical ID card to get care until the change on October 1?**

Yes. DSHS provides more services than Basic Health, so now is a good time to get health care. Use your DSHS medical ID card (coupon) to get any medical care you and your family need through September 30, 2002, the date when your DSHS medical program ends. If you apply for Basic Health now, your Basic Health coverage will begin October 1.

## **What happens if someone in my household is already with Basic Health?**

If you or a member of your household is already with Basic Health, you will not get a Basic Health application packet. Basic Health will mail you information on how to add a member to your account.

## **What if my children are citizens or have immigration documents?**

If your children have F08 in the upper right hand corner of their medical ID card, they have been identified as undocumented. If you have papers to show their legal status, please give this proof to your CSO worker. Your children may be eligible for another DSHS medical program. Also, if their immigration status has changed since they first applied, they may not be in the correct program. Please give the documents showing this change to your Community Services Office (CSO) worker. *We will send you more information about immigration status in another mailing.*

## **What if I am pregnant?**

DSHS offers medical coverage for pregnancy. *We will send you more information about this in another mailing.*

## **What if I am a victim of domestic violence and have applied for immigration status?**

If you have already applied for immigration status because of domestic violence, you and your children may still be eligible for DSHS Medical Assistance. *We will send you more information about this in another mailing.*

## **Where will I get my medical care in October?**

The 2002 Legislature made space in the Basic Health Plan for those affected by this change. DSHS Medical Assistance, Basic Health staff, and many community organizations are working together to get the word out.

## **Is Basic Health coverage different?**

Yes, there are differences.\* You will pay a low monthly premium and co-pays, some services are not covered, and you will be in a health plan. Here's a summary of these differences:

- (1) Premiums and co-pays. Your premium is based on income, who's covered, and how many are in your family. It may be as low as \$10 for each adult enrolled. Co-pays are \$10 for office visits, \$100 for a hospital stay. There are other co-pays too.
- (2) Services. You will have doctor and preventive care, hospital, prescriptions, emergency care, and other basic services. There is no vision, hearing aids, and some medical equipment like wheelchairs is not covered. Dental care will be available through community health clinics.
- (3) Health Plan. When you are with Basic Health you choose a health plan – you are in managed care. One doctor oversees your healthcare and you only go to doctors who are with your health plan.

\*Basic Health will send you more information about these differences.

## **Will Basic Health have interpreter services?**

If you are in Basic Health, you still have the right to an interpreter when you go to the clinic, hospital, or doctor's office.

## **What do I need to do to make this change?**

As soon as you are mailed Basic Health information, call one of the organizations on the Resource List. They will help you fill out the Basic Health application. The sooner you do this the better. We want to make sure you are covered by Basic Health beginning October 1.

## **What if I have a medical emergency after October 1, 2002?**

DSHS offers medical coverage for some medical emergency services. You may be eligible for DSHS emergency medical coverage even if you also have Basic Health coverage. DSHS can pay for emergent medical services that are not covered by other insurance. *We will send you more information about emergency medical in another mailing.*

### **Questions?**



Call the Medical Assistance Helpline toll free  
**1-800-562-3022**

Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
TTY/TTD users call 711 or 1-800-848-5429